

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 23, 1891.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PADDOCK, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 4483.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill granting an increase of pension to Mrs. S. J. Rayner, widow of Rev. James O. Rayner, late chaplain United States Army, have examined the same and report:

Upon an examination of the evidence in this case the committee find the facts clearly stated in the subjoined House report and adopt it as their own, with an amendment: Strike out the word "fifty" and insert "thirty."

[House report No. 3238, Fifty-first Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4483) granting an increase of pension to Sarah J. Rayner, have considered the same and report as follows:

The husband of the claimant, Rev. James O. Rayner, was elected chaplain by post council of administration (act July 5, 1838) and appointed post chaplain U. S. Army April 3, 1867, and served continuously as chaplain U. S. Army until retired February 19, 1887, by operation of law. He died at his home, San Mateo, Cal., June 18, 1888. His widow, the claimant, is a pensioner at the rate of \$20 per month.

She applies for increase to \$50 per month, declaring that she has no property to afford her any income and that she is in a very helpless condition, unable to walk or to use her hands, from the effects of rheumatism; that she is unable to earn a living or to take care of or dress herself. This throws the burden of support upon her pension, which is insufficient to meet her necessary wants.

Maj. Gen. J. M. Schofield, U. S. Army, in an indorsement submitting, under date of December 20, 1889, a communication received by him from claimant to the Secretary of War, states:

"Mr. Rayner was a very worthy and faithful chaplain in the Army. He was stationed at Angel Island, Cal., several years. In addition to his duties at that post he very cheerfully and zealously fulfilled my wishes by ministering to the prisoners at Alcatraz Island. It appears that his widow is now left helpless and destitute, except for her pension of \$20 per month, barely enough to pay the hire of a servant. I trust Mrs. Rayner's pension may be increased so as to provide her absolute necessities during the short remainder of her life."

Under date of November 23, 1889, A. T. Steigers, acting assistant surgeon, U. S. Army, at that time stationed at Alcatraz, Cal., certifies that the claimant is afflicted to such an extent with chronic rheumatism that she is a helpless invalid, unable to walk or use her hands or move without assistance, and that she requires the constant attendance of another person.

In a sworn statement, executed February 5, 1890, John Widney, of Santa Clara, Cal., says he has been the friend, adviser, and assistant of the claimant for years, and knows that her income, outside of her pension, is small (perhaps from \$6 to \$9 per month), and but little more than sufficient, with her pension, to pay her nurse

and wood bill, leaving her insufficient to purchase the common necessities of life. She is confined to an invalid's chair and can dress and undress herself only with the assistance of others; also that she deserves and needs help.

Robert Wisnom makes substantially the same statement relative to the claimant's physical and financial condition.

Your committee think she should have her pension increased as prayed.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

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